Losses Incurred by MMTC

967. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 29th September, 1996, captioned "MMTC incurs losses due to irregularities";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to set right the working of the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no News Item in Indian Express dated 29th September' 96 captioned "MMTC incurs losses due to irregulatities". However, Hon'ble MP possibly refers to the News Item in the Indian Express dated 26th September' 96.

(b) and (c) The Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Extension of RPDS to blocks Covered under Employment Assurance Scheme in Gujarat

968. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to extend the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) to all the Blocks covered under the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in the State of Gujarat and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of essential commodities being made available to the consumers particularly to the tribals through RPDS in Gujarat with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It has been decided in principle to extend geographical coverage of RPDS to all the Blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). However, a statement showing the names of the States including Gujarat and the number of Blocks covered under RPDS as at present is enclosed as Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Government of India has assumed the responsibility to provide six essential commodities viz., wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil, kerosene and soft coke under PDS/RPDS programme. States are free to add other commodities in accordance with the local needs for distribution by using the vast network of PDS outlets.

Statement

Satement showing the number of blocks covered under RPDS

No.	State/UT	No. of Blocks covered under RPDS
1.	A.P.	120
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	48
3.	Assam	69
4.	Bihar	156
5.	Goa	—
6.	Gujarat	97
7.	Haryana	44
8.	H.P.	7
9.	J&K	57
10.	Karnataka	94
11.	Kerala	21
12.	M.P.	223
13.	Maharashtra	114
14.	Manipur	22
15.	Meghalaya	30
16.	Mizoram	20
17.	Nagaland	28
18.	Orissa	143
19.	Punjab	—
20.	Rajasthan	122
21.	Sikkim	04
22.	Tamil Nadu	56
23.	Tripura	18
24.	Uttar Pradesh	145
25.	West Bengal	128
26.	A & N Islands	02
27.	Chandigarh	—
28.	D & N Haveli	01
29.	Daman & Diu	01
30.	Dehi	—
31.	Lakshadweep	05
32.	Pondicherry	—
	TOTAL	1775

RPDS: Revamped Public Distribution System